

**THE JACOBS REPORT**  
**GILDA Z. JACOBS**  
**MICHIGAN SENATE**  
**Assistant Democratic Floor Leader**  
**FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

**For Immediate Release**  
**April 7, 2006**

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**GOVERNOR CALLS FOR NEW ENERGY PLAN**

**Outlines Path to Affordable, Reliable Electricity**

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm issued an executive directive calling for the development of a comprehensive energy plan for the state of Michigan. The plan will outline ways to provide affordable, reliable, safe, and clean electricity for citizens and businesses. Granholm charged Peter Lark, chairman of the Michigan Public Service Commission, with beginning the development of the plan immediately and presenting it to her by year's end.

"Michigan citizens and businesses need to know that there will be a reliable, affordable source of electricity when they reach for the light switch," Granholm said. "We know that we need to plan now to meet our electric needs in the future. This is an opportunity to be sure that we're meeting those needs in the most affordable, environmentally-friendly, reliable way possible. A comprehensive energy plan will strengthen our competitive business climate, grow jobs, and provide affordable rates for all customers for the long term."

Earlier this year, the Michigan Public Service Commission indicated the state will be facing a need for new generation capacity by 2009. The directive will ensure that the state has the tools necessary to meet future demand in a way that is reliable, clean, and cost-effective.

The directive calls for specific recommendations on:

- meeting the state's short and long-term electric needs for residential, industrial, commercial and governmental customers in a way that ensures a reliable, safe, clean and affordable supply;
- developing Michigan's electronic infrastructure to further the state's competitive business climate, grow jobs, and provide affordable rates for all customers;
- reducing reliance on fossil fuels through energy efficiency, alternative energy, and renewable energy technologies consistent with the goal of assuring reliable, safe, clean and affordable energy;
- protecting natural resources and the environment from pollution, physical or visual impairment, or destruction and future risks associated with fossil fuels;
- developing a renewable portfolio standard which will establish targets for the share of the state's energy consumption that should come from renewable energy sources;
- identifying new technology options to generate, transmit, or distribute energy more cleanly or more efficiently;

- fostering continued growth of alternative and renewable energy technologies within the state by ensuring development of the intellectual capital, financing, infrastructure, and other resources necessary for the growth of the industry; and,
- identifying any legislative or regulatory changes necessary to its implementation, together with any financial, funding, or incentive mechanisms needed to best position the state to meet the energy challenges of the future.

The report is due to the Governor by December 31, 2006.

## **JACOBS HONORED FOR ORGAN DONOR LEGISLATION**

### **Award Recognizes Efforts to Increase Donations**

Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) has been awarded the “Friend of Diabetes and Kidney Health Care Award” for her legislative contribution to policy issues related to kidney disease and diabetes. The award was presented jointly by the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, Michigan Diabetes Outreach Network and the American Diabetes Association.

The award recognized Senator Jacobs’ legislation that would allow state employees to use up to 30 days of leave time to serve as an organ donor. The bill, SB 376, has bipartisan support and is currently in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee awaiting consideration.

“This is truly a great honor,” Jacobs said. “These organizations are doing really important work in our state. Diabetes and kidney disease are both increasing at alarming rates. Anything we can do in Lansing to help these groups educate the public about the risks and prevention of diabetes and kidney disease is a worthwhile effort.”

According to Gift of Life, the Michigan Organ and Tissue Donation Program, there are more than 2,300 Michigan residents waiting for transplants.

To learn more about the Michigan Organ and Tissue Donation Program, visit <http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org/>

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR STATE INCOME TAX?**

### **Visit the Department of Treasury Website**

Do you have questions regarding filing deadlines, refund status, the vehicle donation program, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, or home heating credit? This information and more can be found at the Department of Treasury Website:

[http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,1607,7-121-1748\\_1906---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,1607,7-121-1748_1906---,00.html)

**Please note: The Legislature is currently on Spring Break and will return to action on Tuesday, April 18.**

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All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

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